I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm.

II. WELCOME

President Bonistall welcomed Senators and guests to the meeting, extending a special welcome to new Senators in attendance.

III. GUEST SPEAKER: RICHARD RIND

President Bonistall introduced Richard Rind, Director of Parking and Transportation Services.

Mr. Rind explained that he started in his role in early October, and he has overseen many changes since his arrival. Parking and Transportation Services is evaluating its practices and policies to make sure everybody on campus shares in the sacrifices and rewards. They are evaluating whether policies are fair, and whether users have multiple options (for bus routes, parking, etc.).

Mr. Rind encouraged students to provide feedback (to parking@udel.edu) on their parking/transportation experiences and suggest any ideas for improvement. He personally reads every comment, evaluates all ideas presented, and takes action on recurring items.

There will be “expanded choices” for graduate students in the Fall: since Parking and Transportation Services views graduate students as staff members, graduate students will have the same options parking options as staff. He emphasized that graduate students will not be evicted from central parking.

Vice President Richard asked if there are any significant bus route changes planned. Mr. Rind answered in the negative. Changes were made during Winter session and were adjusted slightly for the Spring so that all busses are now running on time (especially in evening routes). He also noted that these adjustments were made because of feedback from students and drivers.

Mr. Rind announced that the parking meters by the Morris Library now have a pay-by-phone option, effective March 7, 2012. If this is successful, then it will be implemented campus-wide. He noted that this could be a benefit for customer service with respect to parking on campus, since drivers will no longer need to carry exact change and there will be a degree of customer support over the phone.

Senator Pearson asked when signage in parking lots will be updated. Mr. Rind agreed that signage has plenty of room for improvement. Replacing all signs will take two to three years; the signs in parking garages have already been replaced.
Senator Lonczewski asked whether meters could take nickels and dimes as well as quarters? Mr. Rind answered in the negative, and explained that accepting coins at meters is very labor-intensive for the staff assigned to maintain the meters. If pay-by-phone works, then it may eliminate the need for coins at meters altogether.

Senator Racco asked about price changes for next Fall’s parking permits. Mr. Rind replied that prices are being finalized, and that Parking and Transportation Services is trying to be “gentle” on students, faculty and staff. He noted that he expected the increase to be the smallest in several years.

Senator Muskavitch asked about parking at the Health Center: specifically, that it can be difficult to leave in the middle of an appointment that is running late to feed the meter. Mr. Rind responded that pay-by-phone (when it gets rolled campus-wide) will help with that. The system would also allow students to call in an emergency and make arrangements so that they will not get ticketed or towed for situations beyond their control.

President Bonistall encouraged students with questions to contact her, and that she will pass those comments along.

IV. INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee - Senator Dahl

Communication is primarily focused on updating the website. In particular, they are working on updating current information, posting current documents, adding sections for committees, and uploading photographs. Senator Dahl encouraged anyone with photos to share, or anyone who wants to have photographs taken at a committee event, to contact Denise Mayes at dmayes@udel.edu, who is handling this duty for the committee.

If any graduate students would like a poster to be created for a committee or event, please email Alicia Dahl at dahl@udel.edu with all pertinent information and design input.

Events Committee - Member Scott and Senator Miller

Events is focusing on the upcoming Grad Forum, to be held on May 4, 2012 at Clayton Hall. The committee met to discuss logistics; committee members will be focusing on getting donations for raffles and gifts for the presenters throughout the remainder of the semester. They are still working on finalizing a keynote speaker; marketing will begin after that process is finalized.

The call for presentations came out on March 8, the deadline for submissions will be March 23, and registration will be open on April 13.

Member Scott encouraged Senators to post flyers promoting the Forum when they become available.

The next committee meeting is on March 20 at 5:15pm at Brew Ha Ha.
Organization Committee - President Bonistall

Organization hosted a meeting to discuss the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. No one attended, and President Bonistall took this as a sign that Senators were generally in favor of the changes. She reminded the Senate that the documents will be voted on later in the meeting, and noted that Organization will also be presenting a proposal taken from last month’s meeting during new business.

Social Committee - Senator Moinolmolki

Senator Moinolmolki announced that the Ice Skating Social was a success, and thanked all the attendees. She reminded the Senate that there is a Happy Hour following the meeting at Kildare’s, and there will be an Informal Happy Hour March 21, 7:30 pm at Catherine Rooney’s. The next (formal) Happy Hour will be at Caffe Gelato after the April meeting; she thanked Kevin Pons for his collaborating on this event. Social has started planning the end of year Picnic, which will be held at a Delaware state park. Senator Moinolmolki asked Senators to ask their constituents when would be the best time to hold this event: before finals, on Reading Day, or after finals.

V. Student Affairs Committees

Diversity Committee - Senators Hefner and Member Ifill

The Diversity Committee is currently establishing building blocks for future committee leadership/membership; the goal is to develop a roadmap for future committee work.

They have created a Purpose Statement, which is presently undergoing revision within the committee. The statement has been forwarded to the Executive Committee to ensure that it meets the overall framework and goals of the Graduate Student Senate. Once it is finalized, Diversity plans to post it online and create an internal document for Diversity Committee members.

Diversity is also working on creating, sustaining, and improving relationships with organizations across campus. In particular, they are continuing their relationship with the Office of Graduate and Professional Education; reaching out to the Center for the Study of Diversity, particularly after the new Diversity hires are made; and improving relationships with the Office of Equity and Inclusion, the Black Graduate Student Association, and the Writing Center.

The committee also discussed developing certain events they host, co-sponsor, or participate in annually. Several ideas in this area include the University of Delaware Graduate Student Orientation, the Brown Bag Luncheon series, a community service event, and an event co-sponsored with another organization.

The next committee meeting is on April 2 at 1:00 pm in Trabant 205.
**Student Life Committee – Vice President Richard**

Vice President Richard reiterated that Student Life’s scope/jurisdiction has shifted: they now consider issues referred to them by the Senate. Last month they considered the Recreation Services Fee proposal from Jake Olkkola in Athletics; they agreed that a universal fee does not meet the needs of graduate students. Vice President Richard’s full report is as follows:

On February 17 and 24 the Student Life Committee met to discuss and prepare a response to the proposal given by Recreation Services. The content for this response was based on the minutes of the February Graduate Student Senate meeting and the views of those in attendance. All in attendance agreed that the fee request for services and the fee rates were reasonable, but the key point of concern was the application of the fee across the graduate student body. In response, the committee presented an alternative to Mr. Olkkola on February 27, which requested that an opt-out clause be placed in the proposal. This change was also supported by the committee with the suggestion of an increase in the proposal rate to balance the revenue stream left by those opting out of the fee. It was explicitly made clear that the suggestion of a rate change was solely that of the committee and did not represent the whole of the Senate.

Mr. Olkkola did express concerns over the loss of expected revenue and budgeting of services that would result from an opt-out clause, but was more at ease with the idea of a higher rate for users to compensate. He also stated that although it was their desire to submit the proposal to the Board of Trustees this semester this may be delayed until Spring 2013. In either case, he has requested that the Graduate Student Senate give a position response to the fee proposal, which can be with support, without support, or condition support.

As a final note, Mr. Olkkola did state that his office is working diligently to secure alternative operational funding though sponsorship contracts and summer group programs. This will include the hosting of camps during the summer months. As more information becomes available, the Student Life Committee and the Executive Committee will forward it on for consideration of the Senate.

Vice President Richard also announced that Student Life will be co-hosting a Town Hall meeting with Vice provost Riordan regarding the fee implemented this past Fall by the Office for International Students and Scholars.

**Sustainability Committee - Senators Thomson and Ardini**

Senator Ardini reported that progress continues to be made on all committee projects.

With regard to fume hood stickers, Sustainability would like to create a website before the stickers are printed, so that the web address can be included on the stickers.

With regard to the Campus Move Out Project, sites will be designated in North campus and West campus for donation collection by trucks. The next subcommittee meeting will be on March 21.

Earth Week events will be occurring between April 18 and April 28. The schedule of events is not yet finalized; more information will be made available during the April meeting. Sneaker collection will take on March 24, and possibly during several additional days.
The Building Efficiency Survey has been distributed to committee members, and data is currently being tested on GIS.

The Gardening subcommittee will be holding a work day on March 17 from 9:00 am to 12 noon and from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at the ELI garden. Anyone interested can contact Courtney Siegert at siegert@udel.edu. They are also actively looking for participants in their community garden.

The next committee meeting is on March 20 at 11:00 am in Trabant.

VI. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newark City Council

President Bonistall announced that a new representative to the Newark City Council is needed. Please contact her at ejb@udel.edu if you are interested. The City Council meets on Monday nights.

Graduate Studies Committee – Senator Skordos

The Graduate Studies Committee has approved the creation of a number of new graduate programs: 4+1 concentration in Leadership in Early Childhood Education; BS/MS in Human Development and Family Studies; PhD in Bioinformatics and Systems Biology.

The committee approved changes to the Master of Marine Policy program and the Marine Policy concentration in the PhD in Marine Studies. They also voted to disestablish the Marine Policy concentration in the MS in Marine Students, and the Oceanography concentration in the PhD in Marine Studies.

Additionally, the committee approved updates or changes to the Graduate Certificate Program in coaching, the PhD in Medical Sciences, Mechanical Engineering programs, and the Program Policy Document.

Assistant Provost Martin underscored that the committee has had a busy year, with many new programs being approved. Committee updates are available at the Faculty Senate home page: http://www.facsen.udel.edu/sites/index.aspx.

Faculty Senate - Senators Portnoi and Pons

The University’s General Counsel advised faculty about their intellectual property rights regarding lecture notes. Sites such as www.notehall.com pay students when they submit class notes and then sell the notes. In case faculty do not wish their class content commercialized:

- The University of Delaware can issue take down notice to sites;
- The instructor can issue take down notice to sites;
- The instructor can include an intellectual property warning on syllabus (that distribution of notes is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct).

A professor from Physics and Astronomy argued whether faculty would be “swimming against the tide”, citing the fact that MIT provides course content online for no charge. Faculty also have
the option of publishing their class notes (subject to university guidelines), or allowing not-for-profit distribution.

*Diversity and Equity Commission – President Bonistall*

The commission discussed faculty and staff turnover this past month, particularly with respect to the reasons why employees leave the university.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

President Bonistall reminded Senators that 26 votes in the affirmative are necessary to pass any motion.

*Approval of February Minutes*

It was motioned and seconded to approve the minutes from the February meeting of the Graduate Student Senate. The motion passed.

*Smoking Proposal Update*

President Bonistall gathered feedback from last month’s meeting regarding the smoking proposal and supplied that information to the undergraduate Student Government Association. She will keep the Senate posted of any developments.

*Town Hall Meeting*

The Town Hall Meeting to discuss the fee levied by the Office for International Students and Scholars is scheduled for March 20 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in 127 Memorial Hall. Senators were asked to rouse interest and promote participation among their constituents.

*Constitutional Revisions*

President Bonistall begin by discussing implementation of the proposed constitutional changes, in response to a question on the topic at the last meeting. According to the current constitution, the Senate year runs to the end of the academic year (at the end of the May meeting). Anything approved will take effect the day after the May meeting; in this way, elections will not contradict the changes being made to voting procedures. The Senate will, however, need to elect a Parliamentarian if that amendment is approved.

President Bonistall explained that the Senate will vote on one article at a time (address the corresponding articles in the Constitution and Bylaws in tandem), and that each amendment requires a 2/3 vote for approval. The Senator making the motion has first right to speak in discussion.

Senator Pearson moved to amend the current Constitution by approving the Preamble of the proposed Constitution document. He explained that the Senate has seen these documents already, and encouraged members to ask any last-minute questions.
Senator Skordos asked why the body’s name is being changed. Senator Pearson replied that splitting the Executive and Legislative branches, as is proposed, is more reflective of a “government” than a “senate”. Senator Ayers added that it also protects the senate function.

The motion passed 27-0-1.

Senator Ayers moved to amend the current Constitution by approving Article I of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws document. He explained that the changes made emphasize the roles Senators without diminishing the role of graduate student participation in the Government.

Senator Vanderhoff motioned to amend Article I Section 2c to add a clause stating that being a Member At Large gives on the right to serve as a committee chair. The amendment was ruled friendly.

Senator Pearson noted a typographical correction.

Senator Levy asked whether organizational delegates have a right to vote; the answer is no. Wording will be added in Section 3 as in Section 2b.

The motion passed 28-0-1.

Senator Pearson moved to amend the current Constitution by approving Article II of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws document. He yielded his time.

Senator Vanderhoff noted several typographical errors.

The motion passed 28-0-1.

Senator Vanderhoff moved to amend the current Constitution by approving Article III of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws document. She yielded her time.

The motion passed 26-0-2.

Senator Pearson moved to amend the current Constitution by approving Article IV of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws document. He yielded his time.

Senator Racco noted a typographical error.

Senator Garcia asked what happens if no one wants to be a Senator from a certain department, or if no one from an academic plan votes. President Bonistall replied that the organization faces the same problems currently, in the absence of a standard elections process. The document has been left purposely a little vague on this point for this reason. Senator Garcia asked who will coordinate online voting; an Elections Committee chair will be appointed to perform this duty.

Senator Dahl suggested a typographical correction.

Senator Garcia recommended that a statement be included to define when the year starts (for election purposes). President Bonistall replied that the timeline is already outlined in Article III. Senator Garcia clarified that it should state that the term should begin in the Fall. No action was taken on this recommendation.

Senator Ardini asked about the April meeting being co-run by incoming and outgoing officers; in particular, who will call the meeting? President Bonistall replied that in the past, the outgoing and incoming Executive Committees have worked together to run the meeting. The consensus was that this practice is satisfactory.
The motion passed 28-0-1.

Senator Ayers moved to amend the current Constitution by approving Article V of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws document. He yielded his time.

Senator Garcia recommended a timeline for removal of Senators; particularly that there should be one month between steps 1 and 3. President Bonistall noted that there is already a one-month grace period built into the process. She recommended that the decision to remove a Senator be left to the membership officer.

Senator Whitaker recommended that the Senate body should also have the power to remove the President. He also expressed concerned that the Executive Committee has too much power to remove a Senator. President Bonistall clarified that any Senator can motion to remove an officer according to Robert’s Rules. Senator Whitaker moved to amend by inserting language to the effect that anyone may motion to remove an officer. Senator Vanderhoff suggested that Article V Sections 1 and 2 of Bylaws be amended to state that “a formal letter from the Executive Council shall indicate a Senate vote for removal”. Senator Pearson ruled the amendment not friendly. Senator Ayers asked whether this should pass through the Parliamentarian, in any case. President Bonistall recommended that “any member of the Graduate Student Government will notify the Parliamentarian of intent to remove”. Senator Whitaker disagreed with the suggestion. This amendment passed.

Senator Pearson noted two typographical errors.

Senator Whitaker motioned for an amendment that the Senate must vote to remove Senators. President Bonistall stated the duties for Senators are clearly outlined, whereas those for an officer are not. Senator Pearson stated that a Senator can appeal to the Senate floor to hear his/her case; having to vote to remove each Senator will unnecessarily bog down the Senate. President Bonistall recommended that the amendment be reworted so that all removals may be appealed to the Senate body; Senator Whitaker deemed this friendly. This amendment passed.

The motion passed 29-0-1.

Senator Ayers moved to amend the current Constitution by approving Article VI of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws document. He yielded his time.

The motion passed 29-0-1.

Officer Nominations

President Bonistall showed the slate of nominations, and asked for any final nominations.

Senator Ardini nominated Senator Thomson for Parliamentarian.

President Bonistall announced that nominations are closed.
VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Elections Chair

Membership Officer Markland accepted the position as Elections Chair.

B. President’s Reception

President Harker’s Reception will be on May 7 at 4:00 pm at his house. President Bonistall reminded Senators that this is a mandatory event; Senators are allowed to bring a friend (she added parenthetically that this is a great recruiting tool). Members At Large are also invited.

C. Organization Committee Proposal

Senator Pearson noted that there have been many constitutional changes recently, and that the Senate should give the document a chance to “breathe”. Organization is proposing to suspend any amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws for one academic year in order to understand whether the changes work.

Senator Skordos noted that this would be against the Constitution. President Bonistall clarified that this will allow the Governance Committee to focus on legislation. Senator Pearson noted that if passed, the amendment ban could be repealed if the need arises. President Bonistall noted that this will be discussed at the Organization Committee meeting this month, and encouraged anyone with an opinion on the matter to attend. The discussion was tabled to the Organization Committee meeting.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Announcement: Screening of the Movie Green Fire

The movie Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time will be screened on March 14 at 6:00 pm in Kirkbride 006. Admission is free.

Green Fire shares highlights from Leopold’s extraordinary career and illustrates how Leopold’s vision of a community that cares about both people and the land continues to inform and inspire people across the country and around the world.

The movie will be followed by a discussion with Dr. Stanley A. Temple, Senior Fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation and Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Announcement: Careers in Public & Community Service Conference

Senator Lonczewski announced the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy will be holding a conference on March 19 from 12 noon to 4:30 pm in Clayton Hall. The conference is on the topic of Careers in Public & Community Service: Strategies for Success and is being held to
commemorate the college’s fiftieth year. Admission is free. This is a unique opportunity for students to attend a professional conference, network with alumni and prospective employers, and learn about the variety of public and community service careers.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Pearson motioned and it was seconded to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Castillo
GSS Secretary